United Nations A/64/210

General Assembly

Distr.: General
11 August 2009

Original: English

Sixty-fourth session
Item 65 (b) of the provisional agenda*
New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support: causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

Progress report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report addresses the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/52/871-S/1998/318). It is submitted in compliance with General Assembly resolution 63/304, which was adopted following the Assembly's consideration at its sixty-third session of the Secretary-General's progress report dated 4 August 2008 (A/63/212). The recommendations addressing economic and social factors underlying the promotion of sustainable development are covered in the Secretary-General's companion report on the Implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (A/64/204), which should be read together with the present report.

* A/64/150.

09-43730 (E) 260809

Please recycle

Following introductory remarks, section II of the report provides an overview of major peace and security developments in Africa during the past year, including the serious concerns being addressed by Africa and the international community in order to restore, maintain and promote peace and rebuild post-conflict countries. In section III, the report reviews progress in relation to the capacity-building needs and increased cooperation with the African Union and subregional organizations and provides an assessment of the United Nations support for the defence and promotion of human rights in Africa. The report concludes that, pending the General Assembly-mandated comprehensive review of the recommendations contained in the 1998 report and of the new challenges to achieving long-term peace and sustainable development, the international community must, more than ever, redouble its efforts in Africa and ensure that the commitments made are effectively implemented.

Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	4
II.	Actions taken by the international community to respond to situations of conflict	5
	A. Conflict prevention	5
	B. Peacekeeping	7
	1. The Sudan, Chad and the Central African Republic	7
	2. Darfur region in the Sudan	8
	3. Côte d'Ivoire	9
	4. Democratic Republic of the Congo	9
	5. Liberia	10
	6. Somalia	10
	C. Post-conflict peacebuilding	11
	1. Burundi	12
	2. Central African Republic	12
	3. Comoros	12
	4. Côte d'Ivoire	12
	5. Guinea	13
	6. Guinea-Bissau	13
	7. Liberia	13
	8. Sierra Leone	13
III.	Strengthening the response of the United Nations system to peace and security needs on the continent	14
	A. Capacity-building support for African regional and subregional organizations	14
	B. Human rights	16
	1. Children's rights	17
	2. Eliminating all forms of discrimination against women	18
IV.	Conclusion	20

I. Introduction

1. On 25 September 1997, the Security Council convened at the level of foreign ministers to consider the need for concerted international effort to promote peace and security in Africa. In the presidential statement issued on that day (S/PRST/1997/46), the Council observed that, despite the progress achieved by some African States, the number and intensity of armed conflicts on the continent remained a matter of grave concern requiring a determined response.

2. In reply to the request of the Security Council, a comprehensive analysis was undertaken in 1998 and a report, which is updated annually, on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/52/871-S/1998/318) was submitted. The recommendations relating specifically to addressing economic and social factors underlying the promotion of sustainable development are covered in the Secretary-General's companion report on the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (A/64/204), which should be read together with the present report.

3. In the past year, progress in relation to achieving lasting peace and security in Africa has been mixed. The challenges to human security are deep and structural in nature. Many African States are still institutionally weak and despite improvements in government capacity, they are still unable to serve as a source of security and prosperity for their peoples. The post-election violence in Kenya in 2008, the escalation of acts of piracy in the Horn of Africa, the worrying instances of non-constitutional changes in Madagascar, Guinea and Mauritania, the resumption of warfare in some regions and the perpetuation of violence in others, such as in Darfur, continue to imperil the lives of many. African organizations have shown their resolve to peacefully settle post-electoral disputes, conduct effective conflict-management and mediation efforts and take a firm stance on leaders emerging from military coups d'état by excluding them and their countries until the return to constitutional order. Despite the many encouraging initiatives undertaken by the African Union and the regional economic communities to mediate and resolve conflicts, protracted wars and cyclical instability continue to threaten progress towards peace and development.

4. Conflicts, whether of political, economic or social nature, have devastating effects on unstable countries and on the most vulnerable sectors of the population, especially women, children, the elderly and the poor. The global economic and financial crises we are experiencing have threatened the livelihoods, well-being and development opportunities of millions of people, exacerbated political and social tensions and raised questions about the ability of the State to deliver basic services to its citizens. Even though we are still unsure about the full effects of the crisis in Africa, it is clear that the continent's slow progress towards the Millennium Development Goals has been further exacerbated.

5. The United Nations has undertaken a range of initiatives across the system to assist Africa and the rest of the developing world in mitigating the economic, social and political effects of the crisis. We must continue and step up aid to transform people's lives across a range of sectors, from preventing AIDS, to boosting agricultural production, achieving gender parity or sealing a deal on climate change and providing the necessary financial support and capacity-building for Africa's

own adaptation and mitigation efforts. At times of financial crisis, aid flows should be increased, not cut.

6. The crumbling of the international financial system and its consequences on social peace and development exemplifies the need to address the causes of conflict and promote durable peace and sustainable development by ensuring that the peace and the development agendas are considered in a concerted and comprehensive manner. If conflict prevention, conflict management, peacekeeping or peacebuilding initiatives are to effectively tackle the deep-rooted structural problems that fuel violent conflicts, new and creative ways must be found to generate human, financial and technical resources and effective partnerships to ensure that the link between peace and development is appropriately addressed at all stages in all peace efforts.

II. Actions taken by the international community to respond to situations of conflict

A. Conflict prevention

7. Preventing armed conflict remains a fundamental goal of the United Nations. Today, the international community has a broad range of instruments at its disposal to avert, resolve and manage conflict. For these instruments to work, it is paramount to establish effective, practical and reliable partnerships with relevant stakeholders, from national Governments and parties to a conflict to regional and subregional organizations and global civil society movements. It is through these partnerships that the United Nations conflict prevention capacities are being enhanced. Advanced planning and readily available resources are key to effective conflict prevention and early mediation. The Mediation Support Unit of the Department of Political Affairs continues to provide support to peace processes. The Unit is strengthening its Standby Team of Mediation Experts, which can provide expertise on thematic and procedural issues of peace processes, and has established a rapid response fund to start up mediation efforts at short notice.

8. The deepening levels of cooperation between the United Nations, the African Union and the regional and subregional economic communities in prevention efforts within the framework of the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union have resulted in a stronger and more coherent conflict prevention strategy in Africa. In December 2008, a two-year joint African Union-United Nations work programme was developed to strengthen cooperation and enhance the African Union's mediation capacity by extending United Nations support beyond the operationalization of the Panel of the Wise to include the development of an overall organizational mediation strategy. As part of their overall effort to enhance cooperation and effectiveness, the United Nations and the African Union agreed to conduct a review of their operational partnerships in several mediation exercises by the end of 2009.

9. The Department of Political Affairs has continued to provide support to regional and subregional organizations in their mediation and conflict prevention efforts. The Department supported the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in conflict prevention activities, including setting up a mediation unit and a panel of elders structure in its secretariat, and assisted the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) to create a mediation unit and a programme to

establish and train a small regional network of technical and mediation experts. The Department of Political Affairs is also deploying two officers to Botswana to support peace initiatives in Southern Africa and serve as points of contact with SADC officials. The United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA) provided support to strengthen the mediation role of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission. **I call upon all donors and partners to assist the United Nations and the African Union to strengthen the partnership with African subregional organizations to establish workable and effective mediation capacities.**

10. In West Africa, the United Nations, ECOWAS and the African Union are working to ensure lasting peace and reconstruction in Guinea-Bissau, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire. Partnerships among United Nations system agencies, led by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, have also been established to support the implementation of the ECOWAS Regional Action Plan to Address the Growing Problem of Illicit Drug Trafficking, Organized Crimes and Drug Abuse in West Africa. The United Nations also participated in efforts that led to the restoration of constitutional order in Mauritania and is contributing to a similar process in Guinea.

11. The United Nations and the African Union provided support to the Inter-Comorian Dialogue, which was held from 3 to 7 March 2009 and involved representatives from all levels of Government and civil society to discuss key governance and constitutional reform issues in the country. In close collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Department of Political Affairs led a mission to Namibia to explore integration opportunities for the nation's war veterans. In Madagascar, the Organization continues to support the work of the African Union, SADC and other international partners to assist the Malagasy parties towards an inclusive political process leading to credible elections and a return to constitutional order. In Zimbabwe, the United Nations, together with SADC and the African Union, actively participated in the Reference Group established by the South African-led SADC mediation in the Zimbabwean peace process in July 2008. The United Nations country team is supporting the enhancement of the Government's capability to play a lead role in mobilizing international development and humanitarian support for Zimbabwe, including the re-engagement of Zimbabwe's development partners.

12. Significant progress has also been made in the peace process for Northern Uganda. My Special Envoy for the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA)-Affected Areas, former President Joaquim Chissano, and Chief Mediator Riek Machar, Vice-President of the Government of Southern Sudan, helped the delegations of the Government of Uganda and LRA to conclude a comprehensive peace agreement. The failure of rebel leader Joseph Kony to sign the Final Peace Agreement led, on 14 December 2008, to joint military operations by the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Southern Sudan and Uganda against LRA in the region. In March 2009, the Government of Uganda withdrew its troops from the Democratic Republic of the Congo but the military coalition continues to maintain pressure on LRA to assemble in Southern Sudan, disarm and sign the peace agreement. The assignment of my Special Envoy was suspended on 30 June 2009 with the understanding that he would avail himself should meaningful direct contact be established with LRA.

13. In the Central African Republic, the United Nations played a critical role in encouraging the Government to engage national stakeholders in an inclusive political dialogue which culminated in the adoption of a consensual strategy to end rebellion and promote reconciliation and stability through democratic elections. The United Nations also continued its efforts to help Equatorial Guinea and Gabon to find a peaceful settlement to their border dispute. Together with ECOWAS, the United Nations contributed to the resolution of the dispute between Ghana and the Gambia. This year also marks the legal resolution of the Cameroon-Nigeria border dispute, which the United Nations also supported.

14. In early 2008, massive post-electoral violence between supporters of the President and the opposition party Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) threatened the stability of Kenya. The United Nations supported international mediation efforts led by the African Union, which appointed a Panel of Eminent African Personalities chaired by former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan to assist Kenya in finding a peaceful solution to the crisis, culminating in a power-sharing agreement on 28 February 2008. At the end of July 2008, the parties approved an implementation framework to address the long-term issues that triggered the crisis, including land and judicial reforms, constitutional and electoral changes, and efforts to address the social resentments that fuelled the post-election violence. While the African Union Panel remains involved in the Kenyan reform process, the United Nations is assisting the Government by providing tools, expertise and resources, including in conflict prevention. In addition, in June 2008, the Peacebuilding Fund allocated $1 million for an emergency volunteer programme for community healing, conflict mediation and reconciliation.

B. Peacekeeping

15. Peacekeeping, perhaps the most visible of the international peace efforts, remains a key challenge in Africa. Regional groups, in particular the African Union, have emerged as capable and legitimate conflict managers, although their capacity to initiate, sustain and conduct peace operations is thus far limited. Last year, I appointed a High-Level African Union-United Nations Panel to consider the modalities of how to support African Union peacekeeping operations established under a United Nations mandate. This should be seen as part of a process to support a reinvigorated dialogue with the aim of forging a peacekeeping policy agenda that reflects the perspectives of all stakeholders in the global peacekeeping partnership. **I urge all stakeholders to continue engaging in the debate to find appropriate responses to current peacekeeping challenges.**

1. The Sudan, Chad and the Central African Republic

16. The stability of the subregion continues to be undermined by the conflict in Darfur, tensions between Chad and the Sudan and political tensions within Chad. On 3 May 2009 in Doha, under the auspices of Qatar and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the Governments of Chad and the Sudan signed a new agreement to normalize relations. However, fighting between Government forces and rebels broke out in eastern Chad just days later. The internal Chadian political process based on the 13 August 2007 agreement, which does not include the armed insurgency, has made limited progress. In December 2008, the National Assembly adopted the laws on the National Independent Electoral Commission and on the Electoral Code. The

political opposition denounced some provisions of these laws noting their inconsistency with the 13 August agreement. A compromise was subsequently brokered by a mediation of the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie. However, in July 2009, the opposition rejected legislation adopted on political parties, since it did not preclude elected representatives from changing political affiliations during their term in office. **I call upon all parties to exercise restraint and stress the need for a political solution in the subregion.**

17. The situation in the Central African Republic has been more stable, but recent clashes between armed forces and rebels in the northern part of the country have led to an influx of approximately 17,000 refugees into southern Chad since January 2009, including within the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) area of operations. In addition, clashes between armed groups took place in and around the town of Birao, north-eastern Central African Republic, in May and June 2009.

18. In accordance with Security Council resolution 1861 (2009), on 15 March 2009, MINURCAT took over the military and security responsibilities in Chad and the Central African Republic of the European Union Force. As at 30 June 2009, 2,424 personnel (46 per cent of the authorized strength of 5,225) had been deployed. However, the tight timeline for new troop-contributing countries to generate forces and equipment, together with a lack of enablers, is a constraint on the force's operational effectiveness. An added challenge is the future financing of the 850 elements-strong Détachement Intégré de Sécurité deployed to 12 refugee camps and 6 key towns in eastern Chad by the Government of Chad to ensure its sustainability and the feasibility of an exit by MINURCAT in 2011, as suggested by the Security Council.

2. Darfur region in the Sudan

19. Deployment of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) continued, dealing with difficult logistical conditions and a slowly improving cooperation by the Sudanese Government. As at 30 June, 68 per cent of the authorized number of military forces had arrived, with a deployment of 92 per cent expected by the end of 2009. While intermittent fighting between the Government and the Darfur rebel movements, tribal clashes, and high levels of banditry and violence continued throughout Darfur, UNAMID maintained its presence and continued to provide confidence-building patrols, support to community policing and other activities for the protection of civilians.

20. The joint African Union-United Nations Chief Mediator for Darfur convened a round of consultations with the Government and the rebel movements since early 2009. On 18 June 2009 in Doha, negotiations between the Sudanese Government and the Justice and Equality Movement were suspended owing to a standstill on the key issues of the cessation of hostilities and prisoner exchange.

21. The United Nations has another mission in the Sudan supporting the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. The United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) is confronted with the maintenance of peace between northern and Southern Sudan and the resolution of disputed issues under the Agreement.

22. On 4 March 2009, the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant against President Bashir for war crimes and crimes against humanity. In response, the Government expelled 13 international non-governmental organizations from northern Sudan, which resulted in the reduction of capacity to provide humanitarian assistance in Darfur and the Three Areas (Abyei, Kordofan and the Blue Nile State). **I call upon States with influence over the parties of the conflict in Darfur to engage with the parties in a concrete way to encourage them to commit to good faith negotiations towards a comprehensive peace agreement.**

3. Côte d'Ivoire

23. By its resolution 1880 (2009), the Security Council mandated the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) to assist the Ivorian parties and institutions in the organization of open, free, fair and transparent presidential elections in 2009 and in implementing other aspects of the peace process, including the disarmament of former combatants, the dismantling of militias, the restoration of State authority and the reunification of the two former belligerent forces. There has been progress since the signing of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement in March 2007 in restoring freedom of movement and stability in the country. This is thanks to the continued dialogue between the two former belligerent forces that is facilitated by President Compaoré of Burkina Faso and supported by UNOCI and Licorne forces, who continued to maintain a deterrent presence in the most sensitive areas of the country. The date for presidential elections has been set for 29 November 2009. As of 1 July 2009, some 6.4 million Ivorians have been identified and registered for the elections. Despite this significant progress, much remains to be done to implement all aspects of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement.

4. Democratic Republic of the Congo

24. Significant progress has been made in the peace process in the Great Lakes region, where the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the National Congress for the Defence of the People (CNDP) and other rebel groups showed courage in coming together, on 23 March, to pledge themselves to peace. I applaud the efforts of the African Union/International Conference on the Great Lakes Region Co-facilitators, my Special Envoy on the Great Lakes Region, President Olusegun Obasanjo, and former President of the United Republic of Tanzania Benjamin Mkapa, as well as the vital support of regional leaders for these achievements. I also welcome the rapprochement between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda. This rapprochement led to joined operations between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo against the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) and other illegal armed groups. The United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) is currently assisting the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) in the integration of CNDP combatants and remaining operations against FDLR. The Peace Agreement of 23 March is currently being implemented through the National Follow-up Committee with considerable challenges. In spite of this progress, the security situation remains volatile and the humanitarian situation has recently deteriorated, with new population displacements and the escalation of human rights abuses. **I call upon the leaders of armed groups to fully respect their commitments and work towards peace.**

25. In November 2008, the Security Council authorized a temporary increase of the military strength of MONUC of up to 2,785 military personnel and 300 police personnel. The Council stressed that the temporary increase was aimed at enabling MONUC to reinforce its capacity to protect civilians. Notwithstanding new opportunities for the resolution of the conflict in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the endorsement by the Government of the Comprehensive Strategy for Combating Sexual Violence, supported by the United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict, serious violence, particularly against women and children, continued throughout 2008 and 2009. During the reporting period, MONUC has facilitated the repatriation of combatants to Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda, and together with international partners, it has also worked on issues related to the reform of the security sector, particularly in the areas of police and military training.

26. The World Bank-managed Multi-Country Demobilization and Reintegration Programme for the Great Lakes region closed in June 2009 after having supported the demobilization and reintegration of approximately 300,000 ex-combatants. A Transitional Fund will be available to maintain technical support for countries in the Great Lakes region which will still be facing demobilization and reintegration needs.

5. Liberia

27. Although the Government of Liberia has made steady progress in consolidating peace and implementing an ambitious post-conflict recovery programme, the country's stability remains very fragile, with many latent internal and external threats, including the political and economic marginalization of the indigenous majority, the limited extension of effective State authority throughout the country and land disputes exacerbated by long-standing ethnic cleavages. The United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) continued to provide support for building the capacity of the national security and rule of law institutions to effectively respond to civil unrest and rule of law incidents, including high levels of sexual violence. On 1 June 2009, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission submitted its final report to the Parliament. The recommendations of the report, including the possible establishment of a court to try individuals bearing the greatest responsibility for serious crimes and gross human rights violations committed during the conflict, elicited open threats from powerful former combatants, who are likely to be named for prosecution. Meanwhile, the trial against former President Charles Taylor continued its proceedings at the Special Court for Sierra Leone. **The international community should pay close attention to any security fallout from the outcomes of these highly contentious processes.**

6. Somalia

28. I continue to be concerned by the recurring violence in Somalia, including the looting of United Nations compounds in south-central Somalia and an attack on a United Nations facility in "Somaliland". I urge all parties to support the Transitional Federal Government, which currently represents the most viable option for peace and national reconciliation. The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) has played an important role in stabilizing the security situation in Mogadishu and in supporting the Government. As of 3 August 2009, 5,100 out of 8,000 troops are already deployed under AMISOM, and the recruitment and training of police

personnel for the all-inclusive Somalia Police Force has begun, as envisioned in the Djibouti Agreement. The Joint Security Committee, the principal forum for addressing security matters under the Transitional Federal Government, was revitalized and held its first formal meeting in July 2009. The Transitional Federal Government has hired the services of PricewaterhouseCoopers for fiduciary purposes to ensure the tracking and the transparent utilization of the funds pledged during the International Conference in Support of the Somali Transitional Security Institutions and AMISOM, held in Brussels in April 2009. **I urge the international community to fulfil the pledges made in Brussels and troop-contributing countries to mobilize additional troops for AMISOM.**

29. The United Nations system, in particular through the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the United Nations country team, has been engaged in the debate on how best to respond to the challenge of piracy off the Somali coast, with particular attention to ensuring an adequate judicial response to piracy, including support to both the formulation of effective policies and the ongoing judicial processes in Kenya. The United Nations Political Office for Somalia and the United Nations country team have also looked at possible actions that could be taken on land in Somalia in a bid to address the root causes of piracy off the coast of this country. Addressing the root causes of piracy in Somalia, however, requires a coordinated and comprehensive approach that would simultaneously tackle the political, security, social and economic development needs of this country.

C. Post-conflict peacebuilding

30. The immediate post-conflict period offers a window of opportunity to provide basic security, deliver peace dividends, build confidence in the political process and lay the foundations for sustainable peace. In 2008, I decided that the United Nations would adopt an integrated approach to multidimensional country operations to maximize the strategic coherence and collaboration of United Nations operations to enable the greatest positive impact in conflict and post-conflict situations to consolidate peace. This approach aims at improving the overall coherence of a United Nations response in key sectors, including security, justice, finance, economic affairs, development and, where appropriate, humanitarian assistance.

31. United Nations activities in peacebuilding have ranged from assistance in the promotion of the rule of law to the funding of capacity-building projects at the community level. They are also aimed at laying the foundations for a sustainable development through the strategic framework for peacebuilding. In 2008, Burundi, Sierra Leone, Guinea-Bissau, the Central African Republic, the Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia, and Kenya received funding from the Peacebuilding Fund. As at 1 May 2009, 92 per cent of Peacebuilding Fund-allocated funds went to African countries, or $120.1 million out of $131.2 million, for a total of 68 projects. The United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in the Central African Republic (BONUCA), the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS) and the newly created Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL) continued to assist their respective host Governments in promoting good governance and respect for the rule of law and democracy.

1. Burundi

32. There have been positive developments in Burundi with the last rebel movement (Forces Nationales de Libération (FNL)) joining the peace process and its inclusion in the country's civil service. The continued engagement of the international community, in particular the Regional Peace Initiative and the South African Facilitation, remains crucial for the full implementation of the 2006 Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement and an environment conducive to the holding of free and fair elections in 2010. I am pleased that there is a strong commitment in the country to consolidate the political gains made since 2005. The Peacebuilding Commission's engagement with Burundi focuses on supporting the peace process, including in establishing a forum for national dialogue, on assisting in the preparation of general elections 2010, in supporting land ownership issues for women, and assisting the socio-economic reintegration of ex-combatants, refugees and internally displaced people. Burundi established its first asylum office in 2009 following the passage of its first asylum law in 2008. A second biannual review meeting on the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding for Burundi, conducted with a broad range of in-country actors, took place on 4 February 2009.

2. Central African Republic

33. In June 2008, the Peacebuilding Commission established a country-specific configuration for the Central African Republic, becoming the fourth African country on its agenda. The Central African Republic Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding, adopted on 6 May 2009, addresses three priority areas, namely, security sector reform, strengthening the rule of law and good governance, and the establishment of development hubs. The Strategic Framework includes important commitments for women's protection and empowerment and for preventing and addressing sexual and gender-based violence. Since November 2008, the newly established Peacebuilding Fund Steering Committee in the country has approved 12 projects worth $6 million. An additional $4 million will support the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process and the follow-up to the outcome of the national political dialogue.

3. Comoros

34. On 25 June 2008, the archipelago of the Comoros was declared eligible for funding by the Peacebuilding Fund. The funding envelope amounts to $9 million and focuses on security and stability, governance and social cohesions, revitalization of the economy with emphasis on youths and women, and the development of national peacebuilding capacity.

4. Côte d'Ivoire

35. In September 2008, two projects worth $5 million were approved by the Côte d'Ivoire Peacebuilding Fund Steering Committee to support the reintegration of ex-combatants, ex-militias and youth at risk, which has already reached over 1,200 beneficiaries. It will also further the facilitation of the peace process and support the Ouagadougou Political Agreement by Burkina Faso, which has benefited from Peacebuilding Fund assistance under its Emergency Window.

5. Guinea

36. Guinea was declared eligible for funding in June 2008. In April 2009, the Priority Plan was finalized and approved with an allocation of $6 million for phase one, the transition phase to the elections, to ensure an inclusive and sustainable dialogue, promote human rights and civic education, the reinforcement of the security sector and justice, and to strengthen the contribution and role of women and the youth in activities of conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

6. Guinea-Bissau

37. The political and security situation in Guinea-Bissau remains extremely fragile. On 26 June 2009, the Security Council decided to establish an Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau, effective 1 January 2010, to support national efforts to consolidate peace and development in the country. The Office will focus on security sector reform, combating illicit drug trafficking, political reconciliation and dialogue and human rights and empowerment of women and youth. The Integrated Office is also mandated to assist the work of the Peacebuilding Commission and the implementation of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau, adopted on 1 October 2008. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, working closely with the United Nations mission in the country, is also assisting the Government in the implementation of the anti-narcotic programme through the strengthening of the criminal justice sector and counter-drug trafficking capacity-building.

7. Liberia

38. Out of a total envelope of $15 million Peacebuilding Fund allocation to Liberia, the Joint Steering Committee in the country approved 18 projects worth $13,287,000 in the area of fostering national reconciliation and conflict management. National and international partners have joined forces to a Joint Government of Liberia-United Nations Programme on Sexual and Gender-based Violence, building on an anti-rape campaign that was launched by the Government in December 2007. The Government has also established women and children protection units in police stations, a new Sexual and Gender-based Crimes Prosecution Unit in the Ministry of Justice, and Criminal Court "E" to try sexual crimes.

8. Sierra Leone

39. In accordance with Security Council resolution 1829 (2008), the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL) transitioned to become the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL), bringing together the political, development and humanitarian mandates of the United Nations family in Sierra Leone to provide an integrated support to the Government in fostering peace and stability and advancing social and economic development. The United Nations family in Sierra Leone has developed a Joint Vision to support peace consolidation through 21 concrete programmes. UNIPSIL actively intervened in support of national authorities to help to end the outbreak of political violence in March 2009, including the signing of a joint communiqué on 2 April and the implementation of its recommendations. On 10 June, the Peacebuilding Commission held a Special Session on Sierra Leone, at which it

endorsed the Government's Agenda for Change and the United Nations Family's Joint Vision for Sierra Leone. At the Special Session, the Commission also recommended that the Government focus on the promotion of national unity and inter-party dialogue and continue its anti-corruption efforts and its fight against illicit drug trafficking.

40. People all over Africa are given an opportunity to return to their homes and rebuild their lives. An estimated 287,000 refugees and 1 million internally displaced persons returned home in 2008, mainly to Angola, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Kenya, Mauritania, Southern Sudan and Togo. To support these returns, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees implemented projects relevant to post-conflict peacebuilding in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, and the Sudan, including the reconstruction of basic services and support rule of law and judicial reform.

III. Strengthening the response of the United Nations system to peace and security needs on the continent

A. Capacity-building support for African regional and subregional organizations

41. Enhancing the capacity and promoting cooperation and coordination with regional organizations on Chapter VIII arrangements is today at the forefront of the United Nations agenda. This is in recognition that such organizations are well positioned to understand the root causes of conflicts closer to home and can influence their prevention or resolution. The United Nations and several specialized agencies have recently concluded agreements with the African Union and the regional economic communities. **I encourage all stakeholders to continue to build partnerships and reinforce them through common projects and sharing of expertise and best practices.**

42. The African Union and the United Nations continue to work together within the framework of the "Declaration on Enhancing United Nations-African Union Cooperation: Framework for the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union", with the understanding that during its first three years, the programme would focus specifically on peace and security challenges. To that end, the Department of Political Affairs and the African Union have initiated desk-to-desk consultative meetings to coordinate action aimed at enhancing African Union capacity in areas such as mediation, elections, gender, early warning and cross-border issues.

43. Cooperation between the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council has also deepened. In 2008, the Department of Political Affairs responded to a request for assistance from the Peace and Security Council by suggesting modalities for the establishment of a committee on sanctions.

44. The Department of Political Affairs has also assisted the African Union in strengthening the capacity of its Democracy and Electoral Assistance Unit, establishing a database of election experts, supporting the institutional memory and dissemination of best practices, and managing the African Union Electoral Assistance Funds.

45. The United Nations has also actively supported the functioning and built the capacity of several subregional organizations in specific areas of mutual concern. The United Nations has supported the secretariat of SADC in building its conflict prevention and its initiatives in gender mainstreaming in policy analysis and peacebuilding and has continued cooperation with the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) on addressing issues relating to cross-border insecurity in the subregion. UNOWA continued to support regional and subregional organizations and other United Nations offices in the subregion to enhance their conflict prevention and post-conflict-peacebuilding capacities.

46. The Office of the Special Adviser on Africa has continued to engage with the Regional Consultative Mechanism and in particular its Advocacy Cluster, which continued to provide support to the priority areas of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). On 19 and 20 February, the Office organized, in cooperation with other Cluster members, a Regional Media Dialogue on NEPAD in The Vaal, Guateng, South Africa, with the participation of senior media experts from Africa. On 22 September 2008, the Office organized in New York a high-level meeting on Africa's development to recommit the international community to support Africa's development and review the implementation of all commitments made to and by Africa to comprehensively address the special development needs of the continent. The Office is also committed to bringing the voice of Africa to the debates and the agenda of the United Nations. To that end, the Office organized an expert group meeting on African perspectives on international terrorism, which took place in Addis Ababa from 3 to 4 June 2009.

47. In 2008, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs established an African Union Liaison office in Addis Ababa to foster a more systematic engagement with the African Union on humanitarian issues within the framework of the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union, in particular in the areas of early warning, disaster preparedness and response, rehabilitation/strengthening of the coordination mechanisms and support for human resources capacity-building.

48. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has been working closely with the African Union, ECOWAS and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development on their early warning systems and in integrating humanitarian indicators into the ECOWAS Early Warning System. UNHCR has supported ECOWAS to prepare the agreement on Equality of Treatment of refugees and other ECOWAS citizens that was adopted by Member States in 2008. UNHCR has also strengthened partnerships in the area of mixed migration with the African Union and other partners, highlighting the need to protect refugees who are in mixed migratory flows.

49. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the African Union have concluded a memorandum of understanding to support the implementation of the African Union Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention (2007-12), by strengthening policymaking, norm-setting and capacity-building at the continental, regional and national levels.

50. The Office for Disarmament Affairs has signed a memorandum of understanding with ECOWAS to facilitate cooperation in information management, capacity-development for civil society and harmonization of legislation. The Office and ECCAS are working to implement the São Tomé Initiative, adopted at the 25th

ministerial meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa. The initiative calls for the development and adoption of a legal instrument to control small arms and light weapons in Central Africa and the development of a draft code of conduct for defence and security forces in the subregion. UNDP also provided operational and capacity-development support to the National Small Arms Commission in the 15 ECOWAS countries, institutional support to the Small Arms Unit of the ECOWAS Commission as well as the implementation of the regionally binding instrument, the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials, 2006.

51. With the assistance of the UNDP-managed African Peer Review Mechanism Trust Fund, nine additional countries were reviewed by the Mechanism in 2008. UNDP also continued to provide support to the Executive Secretariat of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and the setting up of a governance centre in Lusaka.

B. Human rights

52. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has provided technical assistance for strengthening the African Union's capacity for the promotion and protection of human rights as well as for the drafting of an African Human Rights Strategy. A memorandum of understanding between OHCHR and the African Union was finalized during the period under review.

53. OHCHR and its four regional offices have also developed close cooperation for human rights mainstreaming in the agenda and programme of the African Union, the Economic Commission for Africa, ECOWAS, SADC and ECCAS, with a focus on building capacity of national actors to enable them to deal with accountability, including for past human rights abuses. Reparations for violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law is a key issue, especially in the aftermath of conflict, where reparations may offer an opportunity to rebuild the lives for those who have lost it all, including their livelihoods. **I have urged the Security Council to call upon States to establish, or to itself mandate, in relevant contexts, mechanisms to receive claims alleging violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law and to support their establishment.**

54. To assist in their human rights efforts, OHCHR has supported several countries to report to treaty bodies (Djibouti, Burundi and Côte d'Ivoire), the ratification of international human rights instruments (Liberia), the establishment of national human rights institutions (Botswana, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Lesotho and Liberia), the adoption of national human rights action plans (Cameroon, Chad and the United Republic of Tanzania), as well as the training of key human rights institutions and actors (Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia and Rwanda). The Human Rights Adviser to the United Nations country team in Kenya, the OHCHR Office in Togo and the Human Rights and Justice Division of the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB) assisted the Governments of Burundi, Kenya and Togo in setting up transitional justice mechanisms to deal with past political violence. In Somalia, the human rights unit of the United Nations Political Office in Somalia has established a technical working group within the country team on the feasibility of the

establishment of an international commission of inquiry to investigate serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law committed in Somalia.

55. Promoting the rule of law at the national and international levels is at the heart of the United Nations mission. The Organization is engaged in an ongoing process to strengthen system-wide coordination of rule of law at the national and international levels, with over 40 United Nations entities conducting rule of law operations in over 110 countries, with the largest presence in Africa. UNDP has adopted a Global Programme on Strengthening the Rule of Law in Conflict- and Post-Conflict Situations by applying development principles in humanitarian situations and strengthening the rule of law in early recovery settings in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia and the Sudan. The programme promotes women's access to justice and security and the strengthening of rule of law, justice and security institutions. Significant attention is paid to the role of traditional leaders within legal decision-making, conflict resolution and social transformation.

56. In Liberia and Sierra Leone, UNDP and other Inter-Agency Standing Committee partners work to strengthen the linkage between transitional justice and development. UNDP also works with the Government to strengthen institutional reform as well as engaging with civil society to promote community level access to justice in particular for displaced and war-affected populations, women and the youth. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has assisted the Governments of Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, and the Sudan to effectively address the nexus of conflict and illicit trafficking and related organized criminal activities in post-conflict settings.

1. Children's rights

57. The prevention of conflict and the promotion of durable peace in Africa should start with a concerted action to address grave violations against children. In recent years there has been some progress in addressing grave violations directly with parties to conflict. Last year, thousands of children were released by fighting forces in Burundi, the Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda. Despite this progress, both State and non-State parties in these countries, as well as in Somalia and the Sudan, continue to commit grave violations such as the killing and maiming of children, their recruitment and use in conflicts, abductions, attacks on schools and hospitals, and the denial of humanitarian access for children by parties to armed conflict.

58. Over the past several years, I have highlighted as a particular concern the widespread and systematic rape and sexual violence against children, which is increasingly a characteristic of conflict. Formal dialogue processes carried out in the framework of Security Council resolution 1612 (2005) have led to the preparation of action plans by parties to conflict to address the recruitment and use of child soldiers in places such as Côte d'Ivoire, the Sudan and Uganda. In Côte d'Ivoire and Uganda, this has led to the de-listing of parties cited for violations in my reports on children and armed conflict in those countries. In Côte d'Ivoire, one of the parties to the conflict has formally agreed to a programme of action to address sexual violence, the first such agreement in the framework of Security Council resolutions. It is critical to capitalize on the momentum of such progress to ensure more

systematic compliance with and application of international child protection standards.

59. The number of countries involved in the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (established under Security Council resolution 1612 (2005)) on grave violations of children's rights by parties to conflict increased from 11 in 2007 to 13 in 2008, with more than half located in Africa.

2. Eliminating all forms of discrimination against women

60. The combined effects of war, poverty, discrimination and gender-based and sexual violence are taking a terrible toll on African women. Africa is, however, taking decisive steps towards ensuring gender equality. The existence of numerous legal frameworks related to women human rights and gender equality testify to the high level of political commitment to implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which has been ratified by 51 out of 53 African countries. A key milestone in the promotion of Africa's gender equality was the Sixth African Development Forum, held in Addis Ababa in November 2008 on the theme "Action on gender equality, women's empowerment and ending violence against women". Participants adopted a Consensus Statement and Plan of Action, with clear indicators and benchmarks calling for the Africa-Wide Campaign to Eliminate Violence against Women and Girls.

61. Despite this progress much needs to be done to end with the scourge of violence and injustice towards women in communities all over the continent. **I call upon all Member States to continue to support the effective implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security.**

62. The United Nations continues to work to provide appropriate capacity for gender-sensitive transitional justice systems and security sector reform programmes, incorporate appropriate training for peacekeepers, provide advisory services to peace talks and promote the establishment of dialogue mechanisms to leverage women's voices in peace processes. Training of humanitarian and peacekeeping staff and senior managers to address sexual exploitation and abuse by humanitarian actors has taken place in Kenya, Liberia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Rwanda and Somalia and at a regional training in Southern Africa, which included representatives from 15 African countries in September 2008. Since June 2007, 29 advisers from the Gender Standby Capacity Project have supported 19 humanitarian country teams in applying gender equality programming in humanitarian action.

63. The United Nations Development Fund for Women, the United Nations Population Fund and the UNDP Gender Thematic Trust Fund support country offices operating in conflict and post-conflict situations where sexual and gender-based violence and domestic violence are widely prevalent. Assistance is guided by the UNDP Eight Point Agenda for Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality in Crisis Prevention and Recovery, the inter-agency United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict and Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008).

64. The field presences of the Department of Political Affairs, including UNOWA, continued to support capacity-building activities as well as programmes aimed at increasing women's participation in peace and security and electoral processes by

conducting workshops and seminars for women political leaders, members of Government and civil society organizations.

65. In the Sudan, the Human Rights Section of UNMIS has advocated for the participation of women in the National Human Rights Commission, once established, and for the inclusion of the women's rights in the Commission's mandate. In Guinea-Bissau, the Human Rights Unit provided technical assistance to the Government for the preparation of a combined report submitted in October 2008 to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

66. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the United Nations Joint OHCHR-MONUC Human Rights Office has continued to provide free legal assistance to victims of sexual violence in the context of the Joint Initiative to Combat Sexual and Gender-Based Violence. The initiative aims at coordinating the actions of different players (United Nations system agencies, MONUC, non-governmental organizations and judicial authorities) to provide an integrated response to the widespread culture of impunity and lack of effective judicial remedies for victims.

67. In Chad, the Human Rights Section of MINURCAT provided training for the Détachement Intégré de Sécurité on the norms and principles relating to the prevention and the elimination of sexual and gender-based violence. In Liberia, the Human Rights Section of UNMIL organized several activities addressing the connection between women, violence and human rights as part of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence campaign. In the Darfur region of the Sudan, the Human Rights Section of UNAMID, in partnership with UNICEF and other United Nations entities, submitted reports on cases involving killing and maiming, rape and other grave sexual violence, in accordance with Security Council resolution 1612 (2005). UNIFEM provided gender advisers to the African Union to provide technical assistance to the peace process. In Burundi, the Human Rights and Justice Division of BINUB organized training sessions for police officers and the National Intelligence Service on an integrated strategy to combat sexual violence and the abuse of women and children. In Cameroon, UNIFEM provided support to the revision of the Penal Code with a view to identifying specific discriminatory provisions.

68. UNIFEM also works at regional and subregional level to support gender mainstreaming in the policies of the regional economic communities. UNIFEM supported the adoption of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, which aims at improving the legal and social situation of women in the region and their access to decision-making positions and has also supported the elaboration of the gender policy at the African Union.

69. AIDS continues to maim the social fabric of Africa. Moving towards the goal of universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support by 2010 requires far greater access to innovative, high-quality medicines at affordable prices. In 2008, I convened a high-level dialogue with the 17 pharmaceutical and diagnostic companies, which generated key commitments from the industry, including further investment in research and development of new HIV-related medicines and diagnostic technologies suited to low- and middle-income countries. Gender-related inequalities place women and adolescent girls at increased risk of acquiring HIV. Women are rarely included in HIV therapeutic trials in numbers adequate for study power to draw conclusions about them. **I urge all stakeholders to take the special**

measures that are warranted to overcome barriers and facilitate enrolment and retention of women in biomedical HIV prevention and treatment trials.

IV. Conclusion

70. The African Union's unwavering rejection of unconstitutional changes in government as well as the resolve of African leaders to uphold the principles and values enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Constitutive Act of the African Union, combined with the determination of Africa's peoples to work towards peace and development has driven many of the successes and encouraging developments during the reporting period. Despite the existing vulnerabilities and the destabilizing effects of the current economic and financial crisis as a cause of increasing political tensions, Africa also appears to be on a positive, though at times uneven, path to growth. But much more is needed to nurture the roots of peace and stability in the continent. We must ensure that cyclical violence, destabilizing economic crises or deviations from the rule of law do not undermine the progress achieved after decades of investment and hard work.

71. With the capacity shortcomings and vulnerabilities in many African countries and organizations, nearly every part of the United Nations system has an important role to play in promoting, supporting and strengthening the continent's preparedness to address the causes of conflict, prevent and resolve violent conflict and promote sustainable peace and development. We must start by investing in mechanisms aimed at preventing conflict at the community, local, national and regional levels and supporting partners in the field to build their capacity to effectively address the new and emerging threats to peace and stability. The international community must ensure that the commitments made are effectively implemented. Financial, human and technical support continues to be critical to the success of the courageous regional strategies.

72. There are no easy solutions or recipes to address the causes of conflict in the continent. We have seen how quickly the hope offered by elections can degenerate into chaos. Ensuring free, fair and transparent elections will test the effectiveness and maturity of African electoral mechanisms in the years to come. Many other challenges will continue to put pressure on Africa's political, economic and social institutions at the local, national and regional levels. The effects of climate change, rapid urban growth, unemployment and food insecurity can all create tension and open conflict.

73. In 1998, my predecessor provided a series of recommendations to address the causes of conflict and promote sustainable peace and development in Africa. A decade of transformation and evolution in the continent and in the international community requires a fresh look at those recommendations focusing on the new and emerging challenges and persistent obstacles to the attainment of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa.